

PCSK 83
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Friends of MontanaPBS

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 4/11/07
HB HB 11

Friends of MontanaPBS – Signal Delivery Funding Request

MontanaPBS

- As promised during the 2001 legislative session, MontanaPBS has become a true statewide service.
 - MontanaPBS (which began as KUSM-TV in 1984 in Bozeman) now reaches more than 260,000 viewer households statewide via transmitters, cable and (in the western 3rd of the state) by DISH Network.
- The Friends of MontanaPBS exists to provide financial and volunteer support for the MontanaPBS service.
 - The Friends of MontanaPBS has more than 11,000 donating members and a 35 member board representing MontanaPBS viewers across the state.

Background

- MontanaPBS uses satellite uplinking to distribute its signal from Bozeman to cable companies, rural translators and DISH Network across Montana. Satellite uplinking is the most technically sound and fiscally efficient system currently available to distribute the signal statewide.
 - Satellite-fed cable service is the only way many communities – especially those in eastern Montana- can view MontanaPBS.
- Satellite Delivery is currently funded by Friends of Montana PBS capital campaign funds (to be depleted in FY07), Intercap loans, federal grants, (expiring in FY07 and FY08) and station operating budgets.
 - The U.S. Department of Commerce has informed MontanaPBS that the initial grant to defray the cost of satellite delivery will not be renewed.

Request

- The Friends of MontanaPBS are seeking bridge funding to cover the cost of signal delivery to Montana communities for the '08 and '09 biennium.
- Total request -- \$400,000 (an additional \$72,000 will be raised by the Friends from other sources)

Impact

- This request will ensure that 260,000 Montana households continue to enjoy the programs and local service from MontanaPBS that they have had since 2002.
 - Without satellite delivery of our signal to communities around Montana, MontanaPBS would only be available in the Bozeman area.